

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-15 L-03

NSCE-00 SNM-05 EB-08 CA-01 SP-02 /056 W

-----002378 231900Z /50 42

P 231629Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1286

SECRET CARACAS 1787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT: POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS TO
BE SIGNED

1. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT WE CAN WORK UP AGREEMENTS IN THE
TIME REMAINING WHICH CAN BE SIGNED DURING THE STATE
VISIT. THE BEST POSSIBILITY IS A NARCOTICS COOPERATION
AGREEMENT. WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES, THOSE
IN WHICH WE ARE MOST INTERESTED DO NOT AROUSE GREAT
ENTHUSIASM ON THE PART OF THE GOV, AND WE HAVE PROBLEMS
WITH THE THINGS THEY ARE MOST INTERESTED IN.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE POSSIBILITIES AS WE SEE THEM:

(A) NARCOTICS AGREEMENT. WE HAVE PROPOSED TO THE FOREIGN
OFFICE THAT WE RESURRECT THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WHICH
WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED (STATE 44706). THE
POSSIBILITIES ARE GOOD THAT THE GOV WILL ACCEPT THIS
PROPOSAL.

(B) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE ASKED THE FOREIGN
OFFICE FOR THEIR DECISION ON THE REVISED TEXT OF THE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WHICH WE PRESENTED
LAST YEAR (77 STATE 172521). SOME POSSIBILITY EXISTS
THE GOV MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS TEXT, THOUGHT IT
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MAY WANT TO NEGOTIATE SOME PRO FORMA MODIFICATIONS.

(C) MARITIME BOUNDARY. THE GOV WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO
EXCHANGE NOTES ON THE MARITIME BOUNDARY (CARACAS 1701 AND
STATE 40160). WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE
TO CLEAR UP ALL THE PROBLEMS DESCRIBED IN STATE 40160
IN TIME FOR THE VISIT, BUT WE SHALL TRY. WE WILL BE

DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM AND REPLYING TO THAT CABLE.

(D) ENERGY R&D. WE HAVE SUGGESTED POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS IN THIS AREA, INCLUDING NUCLEAR ENERGY, BUT SO FAR THE VENEZUELA'S HAVE NOT RESPONDED WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM. OUR READING IS THAT IT IS NOT SO MUCH THAT THEY OPPOSE THE IDEA AS IT IS A VERY COMPLICATED (FOR THEM) MATTER TO BE WORKED OUT. IN AN ELECTION YEAR PARTICULARLY THIS MAY BE A SENSITIVE MATTER FOR THE GOV WHICH IT WOULD WANT TO APPROACH CAREFULLY. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A FRUITFUL AREA TO EXPLORE, BUT THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE. THE GOV DESIRE TO PROCEED IN THIS AREA MAY BE SOMETHING TO EXPLORE WITH MINISTER HERNANDEZ.

(E) COOPERATION IN CANCER RESEARCH. DURING THE STATE VISIT IN JUNE PRESIDENT PEREZ MENTIONED THE DESIRABILITY OF A COOPERATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN THE GOV AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ON CANCER RESEARCH. WE THINK THEY WOULD BE DISPOSED TO ACT QUICKLY ON SUCH A JOINT PROJECT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION AS TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THIS.

(F) BILATERAL VISA ARRANGEMENTS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS AGAIN SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO LIBERALIZE THE VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA (77 CARACAS 5425, 77 STATE 219749).

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POSSIBILITIES HERE PARTICULARLY ARE ISSUANCE OF INDEFINITE B-1/B-2 VISAS, ELIMINATION OF F AND J VISA FEES, EXTENSION OF F AND J VISA VALIDITIES TO FOUR YEARS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST OTHER POSSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD.

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